GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3259
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
INTERNET NETWORK
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand internet network during 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the target fixed in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has a proposal to expand internet network in the country during the period 2002-2003 with active participation of the private Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

(b) As per the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) policy announced in November, 1998, licence fee upto 31.10.2003 have been waived off and subsequently nominal fee of Rs.1/- being charged per annum. Till date 468 licences for ISPs have been issued and more than 130 ISPs have started service. The Government has also permitted setting up of international gateways for internet using satellite as well as submarine cable media. Till date 71 ISPs have been permitted to set up international gateways for internet for 256 gateways. The ISPs have also been permitted to sell bandwidth to other ISPs.

Expansion of internet network is based on anticipated demands and business requirement. At present provision of internet connections is on demand, as such fixing of target for the same does not arise.